

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-10 and 16-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Uzoh et al. (US 5,807,165).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant has amended claim 9. Support is provided in paragraph 13 on pages 6-7 and paragraph 17 on page 7 in the specification.

Claim 9, as amended, of Applicant's claimed invention claims an apparatus (100) including: a platen (110); a polishing pad (120) located over the platen; a segmented cathode located between the platen and the polishing pad; a slurry (150) located on the polishing pad; a wafer (160) located on the polishing pad and the slurry; a wafer carrier (180) to hold the wafer; a segmented anode located between the wafer and the wafer carrier; a power supply (190) to apply a voltage between the segmented cathode and the segmented anode; and a computer (200), the computer to vary the voltage. See Figure 1.

In contrast, the Uzoh et al. reference cited by the Examiner teaches an apparatus (60) including a rotatable workpiece carrier (66), a plurality of workpiece electrodes (67) disposed in a recess R of the carrier, a rotatable platen (62) attached to a rotatable shaft (68), a platen electrode (63) attached to the platen, a polishing pad (64) mounted on the platen, a means for urging the carrier against the pad, a slurry supply system in fluid communication with the pad, and a source (80) to vary magnitude and polarity of current as a function of time. See Figures 7-10 and 14. Also, see Col. 5, lines 44-51 and lines 10-22.

However, Uzoh et al. does not teach an apparatus including a segmented cathode located between a platen and a polishing pad; a segmented anode located between a wafer and a wafer carrier; and a power supply to vary a voltage between the segmented cathode and the segmented anode. Thus, Uzoh et al. does not teach

each and every element of Applicant's invention, as claimed in claim 9.

Consequently, Uzoh et al. does not anticipate claim 9, as amended, of Applicant's claimed invention.

Claims 27-29 are renumbered as claims 26-28. These three claims had been incorrectly numbered when they were added by Applicant as new claims in an Amendment filed on May 24, 2005 in response to an Office Action mailed on May 13, 2005.

Claims 10, 16-25, and 26-28 (Renumbered After Being Previously Presented) are dependent on claim 9, as amended, and, thus, are also not anticipated by Uzoh et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to the pending claims, including claims 9-10, 16-25, and 26-28 (Renumbered After Being Previously Presented), under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

Applicant believes that all claims pending, including amended claim 9, are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a) (3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.


Should there be any additional charge or fee, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and § 1.17, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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George Chen
Reg. No. 50,807

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

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